

**THE SINS OF THE AMERICAN CHURCH**  
What Everyone Should Know

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## **INTRODUCTION**

### **PLEASE READ FIRST!!!**

I always think letting people know why you are writing on a particular topic is very important. In this way they'll know where you're coming from and why you are writing from the perspective you have. This helps to keep people from misjudging your intentions.

I've learned from experience that people have a tendency to misread your writings and see what shouldn't be there. I believe that explaining your intentions at the very beginning of any work that is religious in nature will help prevent people from taking your words and thoughts out of context.

This is simply because a person's religion is a very contentious subject.

This book is my viewpoint of the Sins of the American Church. It is a view from the top looking down (from a leadership perspective), and from the bottom looking up (from a new convert perspective).

My hope is this little introduction will guide you in understanding why I believe the American Church is sinning and needs to repent.

I want to start by saying I didn't grow up in the church. The first time I ever heard of Christ was at the age of ten. My grandfather, who was estranged from our family, left a children's bible on our porch for Christmas. It was the first time I'd heard of God or Jesus.

After reading the entire Children's Bible, and arriving at the conclusion that it was not a fairy tale, or fun story like those I read in other books, I asked my mother to find a church to come and pick me up on Sunday morning.

This first church experience would influence the way I thought of church for a long time.

Instead of meeting people like Jesus, which is what I hoped to find, I met people who were cold and rule oriented.

I was hurtfully judged by my poor appearance, excluded from worship and any youth activities, and made to feel unwelcome in the place I had hoped to find acceptance.

It wasn't until later in life that I came to fully understand what the Bible was really teaching and how far this particular church had strayed.

This new understanding changed the direction of my life. I came to believe that God was calling me to teach others about the life of love we were meant to live in the Christian Scriptures.

To enter God's kingdom is through love for God and people. We know these as the Two Great Commandments. The entire Bible is built upon these two foundational laws of love (Matthew 22:40).

This is really what I was looking to find when I first tried to attend church, but this is what I didn't find. I expected to find people like Jesus, but instead found people like everyone else I had met in my short ten years of life.

Jesus was loving, compassionate, accepting, a champion for the poor and rejected, forgiving, patient, just, and kind. I had never read about anyone like Him and I wanted Him above all things, even at the age of ten.

From reading the Bible at this early age I came to believe that the church should be like Jesus. In fact this is exactly what the Scriptures teach.

We are to have the mind of Christ, to follow Him in loving obedience, to be His body in the world, and numerous Churches in the United States have persisted in sin by rejecting

this truth as the standard outline for their community life.

I begin with this information so that you will understand that my ideals of the church were not shaped by the church, or people.

They were in every way shaped by Scripture.

As I continued to learn about the scriptures in College and Seminary I became further convinced I needed to share what I knew, but I found myself ignored and rejected by many people who called themselves Christians.

The churches I have served in as pastor were in no way attempting to follow their Lord. They were not obeying His commands.

Many churches in the United States fail in the same way to be the body of Christ in the world and they aren't even aware of this harsh reality.

They are calling Him, "Lord, Lord," but not doing what He asks of them (Luke 6:46).

They are wholeheartedly accepting Him as their savior, but not their Lord.

The same was not only true of the churches I served, but the leadership of those church institutions. There was a deep and engrained indifference and ignorance



concerning what the Bible really taught concerning the Christian Way.

For example; I attended one Seminary that taught Christian leadership, but never used Christ's teachings as the rule for what leadership was supposed to look like in the church.

Who would better know what leadership should look like in the church other than Jesus? How can we simply cast aside His principles and purposes?

Jesus had a lot to say about leadership. Many churches all over the world have denied His principles and commands for leaders.

In the United States most of the Christian leadership models resemble the role of the leader from a business perspective.

In America it seems Churches have traded their shepherds away for businessmen and women who use financial and consumer principles to govern the church they serve. They are truly friends of the world in this way (James 4:4).

Many churches in the United States have traded away the intended design of the community of God's people in scripture for a community that resembles social institutions and twelve step programs.

They are institutions and programs that are more likely to teach you how to succeed in life following the American Dream, than the Way of Christ.

They have polluted the Way of Christ by viewing it through the perception and desire to fulfill the American Dream

They call it progress and order, but I call it *sin*. They follow Christ in ways that enable them to still fulfill their own fleshly and earthly desires.

These desires, in part, have been placed, or nurtured in them by the ungodly culture of the United States. A culture that began to pull away from Godly values and pursuits after the Second World War and has steamed ahead to what it has become today.

This is the yeast that has infested the whole and has caused numerous sinful situations to be blatantly accepted by many American churches as the only way of being the church and being Christian.

It is a culture that has greatly moved away from Biblical designs for the community of the Followers of the Way (Acts 22:14).

We see this happening throughout Israel's history over and over. A generation would rise up that didn't know God, they would do what

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